

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 RSC-01 /031 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR/DR:DSTRASSER:KK

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

CU/IAP:RJONES (IN SUBSTANCE)

CU/ARA:MCHAPLIN (INSUBSTANCE)

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P 181853Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, DR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL OF TOM SEMLER TO DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

1. TOM SEMLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEMISPORTS, HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT (CU/IAP AND ARA/CAR) REGARDING HIS PROPOSAL FOR A "NATIONAL YOUTH AMATEUR BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC." DEPARTMENT IS IMPRESSED WITH PROPOSAL AND WITH SEMLER'S ZEAL, IDEALISM, AND APPARENT ABILITY.

2. SEMLER HAS INVESTED CONSIDERABLE TIME, EFFORT, AND PERSONAL EXPENSE IN PROMOTING HIS PROJECT. HE HAS RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO SPEAK BEFORE THE GENERAL MANAGERS OF THE MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS, MEETING IN DENVER ON OCTOBER 28.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF JUNE 17 TO SEMLER COMMENTING ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF PROPOSAL AND EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS IT. DEPARTMENT IS ALSO AWARE OF VERY RECENT INTEREST SHOWN BY AMBASSADOR IN GENERATING A SPORTS PROGRAM. SEMLER PROPOSAL, WELL
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THOUGHT OUT AND ALREADY OFF TO A GOOD START, WOULD SEEM

TO BE IDEAL FOR THIS. SEMLER BELIEVES, HOWEVER,

AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS AND WISHES TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR TO EXPLAIN PROGRAM MORE FULLY. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE FURTHER CONTACT WITH GODR OFFICIALS (ESPECIALLY THE NEW CABINET-LEVEL SPORTS DIRECTOR) AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO ELICIT THEIR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT.

4. SEMLER HAS REQUESTED CU GRANT TO PROVIDE SEED MONEY OR TRIP. CU HAS FUNDS FOR SUCH A GRANT WHICH WOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH SISTER CITIES PILOT SPORTS PROJECT. (SEMLER PLANS TO VISIT SARASOTA ENROUTE TO SANTO DOMINGO.) SEMLER DESIRES TO MAKE TRIP (INCLUDING DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR) DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 21. DEPARTMENT SEEKS EMBASSY CONCURRENCE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, BASEBALL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE229788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DSTRASSER:KK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740297-0596
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741034/aaaabczl.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED TRAVEL OF TOM SEMLER TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, DR, HEMISPORTS, (SEMLER, TOM)
To: SANTO DOMINGO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005